



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Vice-president's Report

Richard Salz

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San Francisco, CA 94121-1026

This year, 2002, is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Canal Zone Study Group by James T. DeVoss, Edward S. Conger, and George W. Brett. Both Brett and DeVoss are still on the membership roll and are Honorary Members of the Canal Zone Study Group.

Of the original membership, which consisted of the first 100 to sign up, there are still seven original members still hanging-in. They are in alphabetical order: George W. Brett #1; Elmer A. Brink #23; William D. Coffin #21; James T. DeVoss #3; Conrad L. Gibbons #49; David J. Leeds #83; and George W. Stilwell #61. The CZSG membership congratulates you on your unbelievable endurance, tenacity, and dedication.

The above celebration of 50 years of the CZSG will be followed by another milestone in 2004. On May 4, 1904, the transfer of the French canal properties to the United States' jurisdiction and the establishment of the Canal Zone occurred. Also 2004 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Canal Zone Postal Service on June 24, 1904. Will the U.S. Postal Service issue a stamp for this double event? I have no idea but you might wish to write your congressional representatives.

Thanks to member Howard Ballou for giving me the idea of what to write about for this report. And thanks to all the CZSG members who have been reading my "stuff" for these past 30 years—the well is running dry!

Canal Zone World War I Censorship

by Julius Grigore, Jr.

[Editorial Note: CZP 70.8 lists several Canal Zone WWI civil censor markings, without illustrations. Typical markings are shown in Fig. 1. (page 6) without detail or classification. H.A. Metzler seriously studied WWI censor material but died before publishing the civil portion of his work. It is currently being worked on and should eventually be available in print.]

Julius Grigore's following article presents background information centered on CZ WWI civil censorship and introduces a proposed etiquette (Fig. 2.) that apparently was never used.]

The United States of America entered World War I, against the Axis Powers, which included Germany, on April 6, 1917. Accordingly, censorship was imposed upon all Canal Zone incoming and outgoing civil mails for the first time. Local Army and Navy

forces censored their own mail before its entry into the civil postal system.

The Panama Canal had the distinction of being the earliest proponent of civil postal censorship; the first civil agency to develop an organizational plan and procedures for examination of mail; and the first civil agency authorized to censor mail within the Federal Government.

Crede H. Calhoun was the key man in implementing postal censorship within the Canal Zone and, during the war, simultaneously held many positions, all of which were directly or indirectly related to censorship. He was Chief, Division of Civil Affairs; Director of Posts; Head, Censor Bureau; Chief Censor; and Chairman, Canal Zone Executive Committee. In these capacities, he pulled together the various offices of The Panama Canal and coordinated the activities

(continued on page 6)

2002 CZSG Mail Sale

At this writing (late April) very few settlement checks have gone out from the much delayed "2001" Mail sale. Indeed, some payment checks are still coming in. We cannot very well ask members to send in lots for a 2002 sale when payment has not necessarily been received for last year's submissions.

We will have a full plate in 2002 with the fat anniversary issue of the *Canal Zone Philatelist*, the gift to members, and publication of a booklet or two.

No CZSG Mail Sale will be held in 2002, see you in 2003.

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Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the

Secretary's Report

John C. Smith

408 Redwood Ln.

Schaumburg, IL 60193

DUES ARE DUE!

We start 2002 with 720 active members, that includes the 78 members that have not paid their dues yet. Hopefully, you have received your 2002 dues notice by now. The due's are STILL \$8.00 for regular membership. If you have not paid your dues yet please do so, it will save me from sending out reminder notices. You may even want to consider paying a year or two in advance and save yourself time and postage. Contributing members who pay at least \$15 and

Winners:

Cuy-Lorpex 2001, Oct. 20-21, 2001, Rocky River Ohio. Silver Award, and Best Thematic/Topical to **Ed Powell**, "Panama Canal: the Channel Between the Seas".

VAPEX 2001, Nov. 16-18, 2001, Virginia Beach VA. Gold to **Ray Ireson**, "The Panama Canal Story".

Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

The offerings at public auction of Canal Zone philately during the fourth calendar quarter, Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2001 were more than satisfactory as befitting this normally active season. Some of the smaller public auction firms had a lot or two to pique the interest of a knowing collector.

The first price shown below represents hammer plus commission. This is followed by the catalog value, in parenthesis, from the 2001 Scott's Specialized.

- 1, OG, H, VF \$413 (\$550) Rumsey
- 2, OG, H, F-VF \$330 (\$225) Shreve's
- 2d, CANAL ZONE diagonal, used, F \$660 (\$700) Rumsey
- 13 var left PANAMA touches bar, OG, error NH, F in bl.4 w/ 3 normals \$275 (\$243) Bel-Aire
- 15, TG, NH (?), barely F \$1210 (\$2750) Bennett
- 22a, horiz. pair imperf. between, OG, H, VF \$1045 (\$1250) Shreve's
- 25a, horiz. pair imperf. between and at left margin, OG, H, barely F \$2090 (\$2000) Shreve's
- 26 var., imperforate bottom margin, CZSG 26.1, TG, H, 1 short perf. o/w

- VF \$187 (\$n/a) Rumsey
- 39c, booklet pane of 6, OG, H, XF \$633 (\$500) Shreve's
- 46. OG, H, VF \$88 (\$160) Rumsey
- 47. OG, H, XF \$2420 (\$3000) Shreve's
- 56a, double overprint, OG, H, VF+ \$385 (\$600) Bennett
- 56b, double overprint, one reading down, OG, NH, VG margin copy \$184 (\$650) Kelleher
- 58, OG, H, VF+ \$319 (\$275) Bennett
- 61a, overprint reading down, OG, NH, VF \$138 (\$225) Bel-Aire
- 67, TG, H, F \$198 (\$500) Rumsey
- 84b. ZONE CANAL, OG, H, F-VF \$160 (\$375) Bel-Aire
- 97b, booklet pane of 6, OG (few skips), NH, F-VF \$297 (\$650) Bel-Aire
- J19, pair, on philatelic cover from Panama, Rec'd Cristobal 9/24/25, F-VF \$98 (\$52) Kelleher
- J20, OG, NH, F-VF 1st. pr. \$110 (\$150) Bel-Aire
- J20, OG, H, F-VF 2nd. pr. \$105 (\$150) Bel-Aire
- J20, OG, H, F-VF 2nd pr. \$154 (\$150) Shreve's
- J20c, CANAL ZONE double, OG, NH, VG \$165 (\$450) Bennett
- O8, OG, H, barely F \$220 (\$625) Rumsey
- CO10, postally used, F \$140 (\$175) Dutch Country

U4, w/ 56, 60, & 63 added, Registered 1922 to Austria, F-VF \$132 (\$n/a) Rumsey

The names and addresses of the auction houses, which sold these lots, are shown below. Please mention CZP as your information source for a catalog request from any of them.

BEL-AIRE STAMP CO.

2589 Hamline Ave., Suite D
Saint Paul, MN 55113

MATTHEW BENNETT, INC.

601 Washington Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21204

DUTCH COUNTRY AUCTIONS

4115 Concord Pike
Wilmington, DE 19803

DANIEL F. KELLEHER CO.

24 Farnsworth St., Suite 605
Boston, MA 02210

SCHUYLER J. RUMSEY AUCTIONS

1255 Post St., Suite 1100
San Francisco, CA 94109

SHREVE'S PHILATELIC GALLERIES, INC.

14131 Midway Rd., Suite 1250
Dallas, TX 75001-9829

**RECRUIT A
NEW MEMBER!**

The Panama Canal Museum

A non-profit corporation 501(c) has been licensed in Florida to establish a Panama Canal Museum to preserve the American Era of the Panama Canal (1904-1999). A small museum has been opened located at 7985 113th Street, Suite 100, Seminole, Florida 33772-4785 (Telephone 727-394-9338, FAX 727-394-2737, email: president@panamacanalmuseum.org and website: www.panamacanalmuseum.org). A traveling exhibit, "The Canal Zone Postal System (1903-1979)" was the theme of the at the Panama Canal Society Reunion in Orlando in 2001. Still in its infancy, the museum, nevertheless, has already assisted several individuals doing research on the Panama Canal. The Canal Zone stamps and Canal Zone postal history exhibit is now on display at the museum.

The museum is endeavoring to preserve the history of the United States construction of this modern wonder of the world. The museum and historical research facility collects, stores, displays and archives documents, photographs, records, physical artifacts, books, postage stamps and publications of historical significance. The museum is open to the public as an educational experience.

The museum needs support and financial assistance. This may be done through annual donor dues and donations, grants, museum gift shop purchases, wills and bequests. To insure that the artifacts are protected and displayed for future generations, the museum must not only set up a physical plant for the current exhibits, storage and office, but also establish an endowment to fund the project into the future. The museum needs the help of everyone.

The museum has a gift shop where items can be purchased off the website or by mail and all proceeds go to the museum. Items that would be of great interest to Canal Zone Study Group members are the beautiful T-shirts picturing a Canal Zone 25th anniversary postage stamp set with the wording "Honoring the Canal Zone Postal Service 1904-1979" (at \$15.00 per shirt) and also the two-volume sets of books on Canal Zone Stamps (Vol. 1 1904-1960 and Vol. 2 1961-1979). The two-volume set is \$15.00. The museum has prepared a 2002 calendar honoring the Canal Zone postal system (\$6.00).

Museum's website is updated frequently as an effective means of making the museum presence and objectives known; the website also includes the original marketing plan, a complete list of directors and donors, and relevant photographs.

More F.A.M. 5 Inaugural Covers & Cancellations

By Armand Cote

This is a follow-up to the article entitled "Lindbergh's 1929 F.A.M. 5 Inaugural Flight - Covers and Cancellations" published in *CZP* 138. Since that article, more information has surfaced, some in response to the article, such that a revision of the cancellation chart is in order. Ten cancellations were added to the chart with the most notable being an Ancon Feb 8 hand-cancel and a Feb 8 Balboa Heights machine cancel on a registered cover. Note that Feb 9 was the only previously recorded date for these two post offices.

CZP 138 discussed the elusiveness of multiple rate covers with the FAM 5 inaugural rates having been set at 2c per oz. regular postage plus a 25c per half-ounce airmail surcharge. Examples of one-ounce and two-ounce usage are shown in Figs. 1 & 2. Other scarce covers are those with foreign destinations. Fig. 3 is an example of one addressed to England with a franking of 30c consisting of the 25c airmail surcharge and 5c regular postage which was the U.S. (and presumably the Canal Zone) seapost rate to Europe.

The large quantity of FAM 5 inau-

gural covers offers the opportunity for collectors to find unusual and interesting varieties. An example is Fig. 4 which depicts an F5-1 letter with only the 25c airmail surcharge thus requiring 2c postage due upon arrival at Cristobal. Conversely Fig. 5 shows an F5-2 cover franked with only 6c perhaps intended for the steamship & air service (which would have required 5c postage at that time). Nevertheless, it was flown on the return flight and did not incur a postage due penalty!

Some covers were flown both ways. Figure 6 is an outstanding example of such a cover. A rather ordinary southbound cover (although signed by Miami Postmaster Pittman) was also autographed upon arrival at Cristobal by Postmaster Gerald Bliss. Evidently, in accordance with instructions by the addresser/addressee, the backside was franked with Canal Zone stamps, properly cacheted & cancelled to be flown on the return flight, but not before being autographed by Charles Lindbergh himself!! A remarkable cover.

SCADTA, the Colombia-Germany air transport "society" that serviced Central & South America in the 1920s & 30s, was involved in a small quantity of FAM 5 inaugural mail. Figure 7 is such an example. A let-

ter destined for Ecuador was franked with 30c of special "EU" (Spanish abbreviation for "U.S.") SCADTA stamps in addition to the required 27c U.S. postage which was properly cancelled in Miami. Upon arrival in Cristobal it received the usual Feb 6 backstamp, then flown to Cartagena, Colombia by SCADTA where it was cancelled on Feb 8. It was later flown to Guayaquil, Ecuador where it received a Feb 17 SCADTA backstamp. Certainly an interesting cover.

Errata: *CZP* 138 discussed the earliest known usage of the airmail envelope UC2. Please note that the Jan 19 date was in error. The correct date is Jan 20, 1929.

As mentioned in *CZP* 138, the study is a work in progress; and any information regarding the topic is solicited by the author at 6 Sycamore Court, Atkinson, NH 03811-2727 or arcote@aol.com. Of special interest would be Ancon hand-cancels and receiving back-stamps at the various post offices (Balboa, Balboa Heights and Coco Solo are the only ones recorded to date). Also, any information regarding the southbound itinerary of the second plane (NC 8044) in early Feb. 1929 to be ready to accompany Lindbergh's plane on the Feb 10 return flight.

Canal Zone Feb. 1929 F.A.M. 5 Cancellations

ANCON	FEB 8	12:00 PM
	FEB 9	4:00 PM
BALBOA	FEB 6	10:30 AM
		12:00 M
		6:00 PM
	FEB 7	(8:00 AM)
		8:30 AM
		10:30 AM
		3:30 PM
		6:00 PM
	FEB 8	3:30 PM
		REG
	FEB 9	4:30 PM
BALBOA HEIGHTS	FEB 7	(9:00 AM)
	FEB 8	10:30 AM
		REG
	FEB 9	10:30 AM
		4:00 AM
COCO SOLO	FEB 7	(8:00 AM)
		(10:30 AM)
	FEB 9	REG
COROZAL	FEB 8	10:30 AM

CRISTOBAL	FEB 6	(4:30 PM)
	FEB 8	REG
	FEB 9	REG
	FEB 10	5:00 AM
		REG
FORT CLAYTON	FEB 7	12:30 PM
	FEB 8	12:30 PM
FRANCE FIELD	----	----
GAMBOA	FEB 6	5:00 PM
GATUN	FEB 4	12:00 M
	FEB 6	4:30 -PM
PEDRO MIGUEL	FEB 5	5:00 PM
	FEB 7	12:30 PM
	FEB 8	7:00 AM
		5:00 PM
		12:30 PM
	FEB 9	7:00 AM
		10:00 AM

(Continued on next page)

All cancellations are F5-2 except those in () which are receiving backstamps on F5-1 covers



Fig. 1. Example of one-once rate on F5-2 cover.



Fig. 2. Example of two-once rate on F5-2 cover.

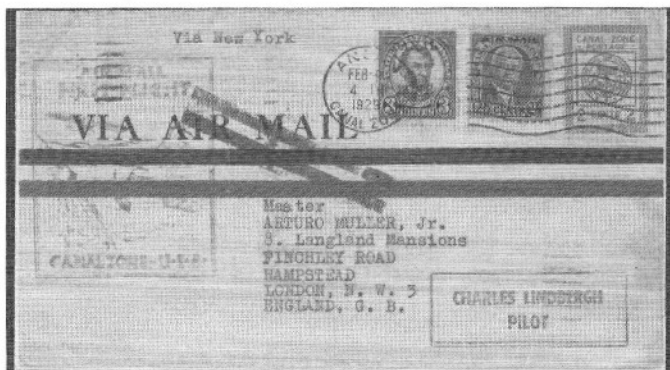


Fig. 3. F5-2 cover with destination England.



Fig. 4. F5-1 cover with Canal zone postage due.



Fig. 5. F5-2 cover flown with only 6 cents franking.



Fig. 7. SCADTA F5-1 cover Miami to Ecuador via Colombia (courtesy Julius Grigore)



Fig. 6. Two-way cover autographed by Miami PM Pitman, Cristobal PM Gerald Bliss and Charles Lindbergh. (courtesy Julius Grigore)

CZ WWar I Censorship

continued from page 1

of the Army, Navy, American Embassy, Panama, the Republic of Panama, and the National Censorship Board, Washington. Calhoun was supported by Stacey C. Russell, Chief Postal Inspector and a secretary.

Calhoun sensed the United States was drifting towards war, and foresaw the need for a coordinated postal censorship program within the Canal Zone and the Republic of Panama. He discussed his views with his superior, C.A. McIlvaine, Executive Secretary of The Panama Canal, on February 17, 1917, one day after the United States broke diplomatic relations with Germany over the issue of that nation's unrestricted use of submarine warfare. McIlvaine concurred with Calhoun, instructing him to draft a censorship plan for Governor Chester Harding's review.

After a diligent search, involving requests to the Military Intelligence Office, Panama Canal Department and the U.S. Post Office Department which were not responded to, Calhoun finally found what he was looking for aboard the USS *Charleston*, which was stationed in Canal Zone waters. It was in Fleet Order No. 17, which outlined a policy and procedures for implementation of a mail censorship program by ships and shore facilities under the command of Commander, Atlantic Fleet in event of war. As a result, on March 20, 1917, Calhoun presented a draft of a policy, for the concurrence of Governor Chester Harding, which outlined a plan—beyond that of censoring incoming and outgoing mails—for protecting the Panama Canal in event of war.

One outcome of Calhoun's proposal, which was finally implemented on November 17, 1917, was that his censorship plan was modified to also intern German subjects and their families who were in Canal Zone and in the Republic of Panama. A confidential cable requesting authority for the Canal Zone Government, in cooperation with local military and naval forces, to round-up Germans in event of war, was accordingly sent to the

Secretary of War, Washington by Governor Harding. There was also a concern regarding the concerted effort by a German controlled airline, SCADTA—operating within neighboring Colombia—to obtain rights to fly air mails into the Canal Zone and the Republic, beginning in August 1924—Governor Harding's cable is cited in part:

CABLE No. 37

ISTHMIAN-WASHINGTON
Balboa Heights, March 22, 1917
(CONFIDENTIAL FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR)

Request approval for the following measures for protecting the Panama Canal in event of war. Sequestration of German subjects and their families who are in the Canal Zone or who may enter the Zone, intention being to transfer them at first opportunity to detention camps within the United States.

Arrange for Panama Government to turnover to us all German subjects for similar disposition.

Harding's cable also requested authority from the Secretary of War to censor all suspicious cables and mails; to mine Canal Zone waters; to prohibit approaching entrances to the Panama Canal at night; to detain suspicious vessels; and to black-out the Canal Zone harbors.

The censorship role of Gerald D. Bliss, Postmaster, Cristobal Post Office, in accordance with the Calhoun Plan would foretell how the Cristobal facility would operate when Air Mail service was introduced to the Canal Zone during the late 1920's. Bliss's facility would be responsible for the receipt and forwarding of all in-transit mail. Censorship was to be concentrated in the Cristobal Post Office to process all outgoing mail from the Canal Zone that was not previously censored. Outgoing mail from the Republic of Panama was to be censored at the Colon Post Office. Cristobal Post Office would route all Canal Zone and Panama outgoing mail so that it would pass through a United States or Allied censorship



Fig. 1. Typical CZ WWI Civil censor markings.

station before dispatch to the recipient. Cristobal was selected as the site for censoring the mails because mostly all Canal Zone and Panama incoming mails arrived and was dispatched from that port. Cristobal was also the location of the Canal Zone Postal Exchange Office, which received and forwarded in-transit mails.

A 21mm x 75mm etiquette or label, deep pink in color, was to be applied to each censored piece of mail with informational details reading: "Passed/by/Censor/The Canal Zone Seal (in the middle body)/Panama/Canal/Zone" as seen in Fig. 2. But this label has not been sighted by the writer on any cover so its intended

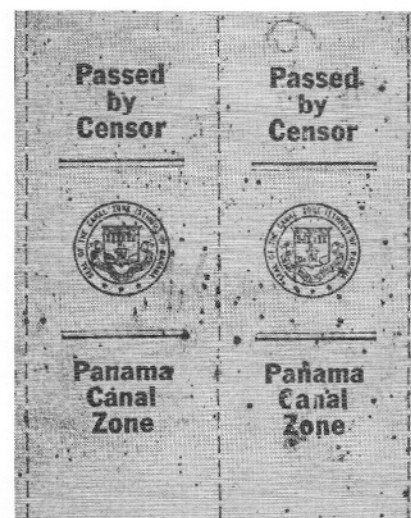


Fig. 2. Proposed CZ WWI civil Censor Etiquette.

use may have been discontinued at the onset.

There were seven Postal Agents resident in Panama City who represented Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Their purpose was to receive all mail to and from the country they represented, arrange for its reshipment, accumulate required

(Continued on next page)

shipping records and cost information, pay for or arrange for payment to the shipping lines, and prepare reports to their parent country. But all physical handling of mails was by Canal Zone dock-workers hired by the Panama Railroad Company or by Bliss's postal employees. The Postal Agents were, as a body, against censorship of mails which had origins in their parent country, but little came out of their dissent.

Spanish language mail to Mexico was originally required to be sent to the New York Censorship Station, but later it was routed through the censorship station in New Orleans. It was also necessary to cease routing mails direct to the Railway Post Office at New Orleans, and instead route mailed direct to the New Orleans Post Office. Transit mail in German or addressed to Germany and other Axis powers was sent to the New York Post Office for processing. The Cristobal Censorship Station examined mail, which could not be routed to a definite censorship station abroad.

It was Bliss's responsibility to ascertain that all letters within each bag of incoming mail had actually passed through a United States or Allied censorship station. This was to be done by direct examination of the contents of each bag of mail, and not by relying on how each bag of mail was tagged. If any such mail was not examined, it was to be immediately sent for examination by the Cristobal Censorship Station. Thereupon, a report of the discrepancy had to be filed with Calhoun who in-turn reported it to the National Censorship Board,

Washington. Conversely, any censorship station within the Canal Zone or Panama could be taken to task by Calhoun or by the National Censorship Board for any discrepancies.

For one example, the New Orleans Censorship Station called Calhoun's attention to one Canal Zone censor who had discussed his duties in a personal letter. This was against regulations. The violator was discharged immediately by Calhoun.

Bliss was always alert to situations where censorship of mail could possibly be by-passed, and he made recommendations to prevent such occurrences and for improvements to censorship procedures. He found, for example, that mail from Spain to Central and South America was being routed through censorship stations in New York, Cuba, or Puerto Rico or sometimes it was sent to the Canal Zone. Bliss recommended that mail in the Spanish language be routed instead to the Canal Zone so that one station could present a composite picture of violations from examination of the mail rather than evaluating authorities being presented with fragmented reports from several stations.

Bliss's censorship facility was doing an excellent job, but was not perfect. In April 1918, for an example, Navy Intelligence established a cover agency in the Canal Zone known as the American Forwarding Company. Its address was a post box at the Cristobal Post Office. Mail to and from the company was privileged and was not to be opened. An alert was circulated to prevent the company's mail from being examined should it

inadvertently reach any censor station. In October 1918, however, the Intelligence Officer, Fifteenth Naval District, reported to Calhoun that a letter, which contained highly classified information, had been opened by local censors before it was delivered to the American Forwarding Company.

The investigations of Stacey Russell, who was the Senior Postal Inspector for Calhoun, revealed that Bliss's censorship team had been doing their job so well since receipt of the initial instruction not to open American Forwarding Company mail that one censor had forgotten about the order. That censor was so distraught over his mistake that he offered to resign. His offer was declined.

Early in the process of censorship of the mails, it was noted by authorities that pro-German sentiments were being expressed in many letters received from South America with a few expressing anti-American feelings. And, instances were found where American firms were continuing to trade with the enemy through consignment of restricted materials through firms in neutral countries. Also letters were found which contained dangerous information if seen by the enemy. This was not always in mail from German agents or sympathizers but in those written by residents of the Isthmus of Panama to their friend's abroad.

Although the Allied and Axis powers signed an armistice on November 11, 1918, which formally ended World War I, Canal Zone censorship activities did not cease until the close of business on June 30, 1919.

Note from Joseph Napp on Bridgeless Thatcher Ferry article in *CZP 141*:

Ten years ago at the Smithsonian, I had an opportunity to visit with Joe Geraci at the National Philatelic Collection when it was at the old location on the top floor of the silver building on the Mall (Museum of Natural History). They were going to shut down the displayed National Collection as well as the material in the vault(s) to do an inventory. Joe Geraci let me go

through the unsorted documents received from the Canal Zone Postal Service and other data from the BEP.

The impression count for printing plate 168153 (base plate) was 5,995 (as of 09-06-62) and the impression count for printing plate 168154 (silver overprint plate) was 5,061 (as of 09-07-62).

The Bridgeless Thatcher Ferry is unique in the philatelic community. However, back at the BEP printing shop, the Bridgeless stamps were just one of many. I do not mean to diminish what those stamps are but I think

they should be consider "unfinished" as opposed to "errors". Once, there were a whole bunch of them. (5,995 - 5,061 = 934 sheets of 200 = 3,736 panes of 50). A small quantity (4 panes) got out of the BEP!

I do not have an opinion of the stamps illustrated in the article. My only comment is—others existed and others could have been issued. Incidentally, these plates were rotary press plates but there were also two Giori press plates 168149 and 168159 which were never used.

Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps

By Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Overprinted U.S.
Issues - 1924-1933

Part II - Fake Flat A Overprints - Commonly Encountered Examples

In the last article in this series, the keys to distinguishing flat A and sharp A overprints (OPs) were reviewed, and some instances of fake flat A overprints that produced apparent examples of CZ errors were illustrated. These were of relatively poor quality, and were unlikely to fool the majority of collectors.

In this article, examples of fakes that pose as the basic flat A stamps are discussed. In other words these appear to be examples of Scott numbers CZ 70-81, not of errors or varieties. They were created by applying the overprints to the flat plate U.S. stamps in the 1922-25 series assigned Scott numbers U.S. 551-71. Three examples of fakes have been chosen for this article. In addition to being fakes of the basic Canal Zone stamps themselves, these fakes share two other common characteristics. First, these examples are sufficiently good deceptions that they may pass muster on first examination, i.e. they are well-enough executed that they may pass for good stamps. Second, the supply is ample enough that they are relatively commonly encountered in dealer's stocks, auction lots, and even a friend's collection. These fake OPs can be found on many of the values in this series. I will leave for another time some additional, poor quality fakes of stamps in this series, plus the analysis of fakes of Scott No. 81, which is one of the most commonly faked Canal Zone stamps, and will be treated separately.

The starting point is to examine a stamp with the genuine overprint, as shown in Fig. 1. For the purpose of this article, in addition to looking at the full overprint in the illustration for each stamp, the word CANAL in each overprint, genuine at the top and the three fakes beneath it, is magnified in Fig. 2.

Like genuine flat A stamps, each of the fake overprints show in Figs. 3-5 is applied to the correct flat press stamp.

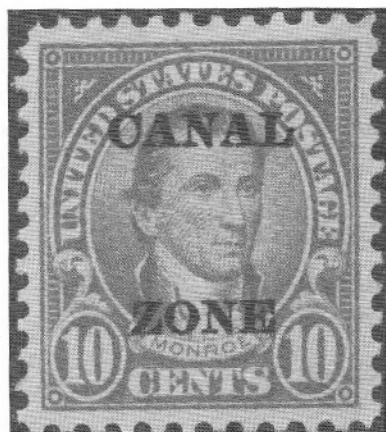


Fig. 1. Genuine flat A overprint from first printing.

The genuine overprint in Fig. 1 is from the first printing. Thus the top example of the word CANAL in Fig. 2 shows the crisp outline of the letters, and that the strong upswing on the lower part of the C nearly closes the opening, like a closed jaw. The arc of the lower part of the C swings up to point directly at the vertical portion of the upper right serif, which is not tilted. If anything it points slightly inward. On the inner portion of the C, the vertical part looks somewhat flattened, particularly compared to typical fakes. Another point to observe is the lower right portion of the letter L, where the arc appears to continue from right to left until it joins the main vertical stroke of the L.



Fig. 2. CANAL overprint from genuine example (top) and three different fakes.

The stamp with the fake overprint shown in Fig. 3 is very unusual, because it is unused. With the exception of the \$1 value, nearly all examples of fakes of the flat A overprint are used. Fakes of Scott CZ No. 81 are found both used and unused. When many examples of this fake on most values in this series were being sold at a major show some years ago, George Stilwell and I tried unsuccessfully to stop their further distribution.

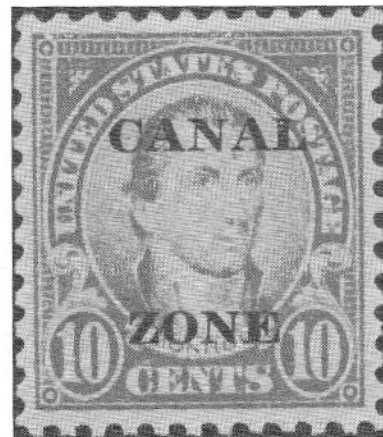


Fig. 3. Commonly encountered fake overprint—stretched out letters.

I described them in the *CZP* 88:28 (1986) and 94:6 (1990) with a caution that I viewed them as a dangerous fake because they were not easily detected, especially if they are not side-by-side with a genuine example. However, once a collector has seen this fake and knows to be wary, it is not hard to spot. Here are some key features. First consider some aspects of the individual letters. The inside of the C, is regular, smooth and rounded, rather than having a nearly flattened vertical part seen in the genuine overprint. The right side of the C is pretty close to ok, though the opening at the right is a bit wider than the genuine example, the upper serif tilts backward slightly, and with the lower tip protruding below an imaginary vertical line extending below the upper right serif. It looks like an open jaw. The L also shows significant differences. There is a pronounced flat portion between the curved part of the inner portion of the serif at the bottom right and the main vertical part of the L. On genuine cop-

(Continued on next page)

ies, the curvature extends to the point where the vertical stroke rises. In addition, in the word ZONE between the letters Z and O there appears to be the remnants of a piece that broke off the O; this characteristic, in some form is common to the examples of this fake I have seen. But a detailed, fine analysis is not really required, as the overprint, in general, just doesn't look right. The overprint looks stretched out. This occurs for two reasons. First it is slightly longer, as the word CANAL is 11.5 mm rather than 11.2 mm on the genuine. Second, the letters are shorter. They measure 1.9 mm, rather than 2.0 mm high. The combination, as shown in comparing the word CANAL in the top two examples in Fig. 2, is that the fake looks extended or stretched out. With experience or by comparison with a genuine example, this fake is not overly difficult to detect.

The next fake shown in Fig. 4 is quite a different story. This is an example from a stash of such fakes that is in the archives of the American Philatelic Society's Expertization Division. There are examples on nearly all stamps in this series, and are especially prevalent on the higher values. The bad news is that this is a "good" fake, meaning that it is tough to detect. The CANAL is a tad short, coming in just under 11.0 mm, but does not look short to the unaided eye. The height is ok. The spacing between CANAL and ZONE is a bit narrow, being 9.0 mm instead of 9.2 mm. The overprint looks like a first printing because the A's show no signs of filling in, but the edges of the letters are not quite as distinct as found in the genuine example of the first printing. The fake C does show some differences: the curvature inside looks right, but the lower right part of the C is still curved as it reaches the end, and the gap between it and the bottom of the top serif is larger than on the genuine stamp, again like an open jaw. The serif on the C tilts back slightly. In all, this is a tough one to spot and a real danger to collectors, though with careful examination and measurements, one can tell that it is not genuine.

Finally, I have included an example



Fig. 4. Fake overprint with slightly small spacings that is tough to detect.

in Fig. 5 of a third fake overprint for which examples can be found. The measurements on this fake warrant including it in this series of "good" fakes, as they are just about perfect, at 11.2 mm, 2.1 mm, 9.2 mm. But this one is easier to detect from its general appearance, and there should be no doubt that the bottom example of the CANAL overprint in Fig. 2 is not genuine. The overprint is blotchy, the lower left tip of the L is missing (on other examples of this fake as well), and the spacing between the lower right of the A and N and L is large, compared to nearly touching on the genuine copies. Also the lower right portion of the C is not smoothly curved, and actually projects outside the line of the vertical stroke of the serif at top right, though the top serif



Fig. 5. Fake overprint with perfect measurements.

on the C tilts inward correctly

Acknowledgment: Although this writer prepares the articles on this and other series and is responsible for the content, he has received tremendous amounts of help, in the form of material, advice and commentary, and in helping diagnose the bad ones. The purpose here is to recognize those who have assisted, with apologies to anyone I may have forgotten. Those to whom the writer is indebted include Dick Salz and George Stilwell for their expertise, encouragement and material, Richard Spielberg for his help in getting these articles into the CZP, David Leeds, Bob Karrer, and Mercer Bristow for material and advice, Joe Napp and Gary Weiss for their insights, and Ray Coughlin and Aurora Stamps for providing material. Thanks also go to the PSE and APES for providing photos of certain material when it comes through their offices for expertization.

Howard G. DeVoe

The Canal Zone collecting fraternity has lost an important presence. Howard G. DeVoe. He died Sunday, February 17, 2002 at the age of 83.

Howard and his son Chris co-founded C&H Stamps in 1979, but Howard began collecting Canal Zone philately in the early 1960s. He made significant contributions to CZ postmark and censorship research in the 1970s, assisting the efforts of Lawson Entwistle and Harry Metzler, and as noted in a CZP in 1974, found the first reported CZ J20b (the rose red shade of the 10c postage due). He also helped in Bob Karrer's research of Maduro postcards. Howard operated C&H between 1980 and 1995. He had been struggling with Alzheimer's Disease since early 2000, but contracted pneumonia in February.

On the behalf of our entire family, I would like to thank you all for your past associations with Howard and C&H Stamps. Howard was proud of his Canal Zone contributions and the CZSG, and really enjoyed working with all of you. I will miss him; I feel that we all will.

Chris DeVoe

CZSG 2001 Mail Sale by Jim Crumpacker

The 30th consecutive annual CZSG Mail Sale has closed its offering of 1254 available lots.

With the "kitchen sink" approach, this Sale bulged both with goodies and defective orphans. The percentage of lots sold was our lowest ever, but the 890 or so lots which did sell realized some 80% of catalog or estimate, easily in the handful of all-time best results.

As to category outcomes, every one of the precancel lots sold for more than estimate. This material just isn't out there and buyers are willing to pay a fat premium. Unusual or oddball covers brought nice realizations. Postal stationery in most cases gave robust rewards to the consignors. Varieties on the early issues did quite well. The Specimen overprints did not and probably will not do well, until we get them listed by Scott's. Anything with truly outstanding centering (and there were many such lots) sold commendably. Post Office seals were hot (why?).

More items of high catalog value were submitted for this Sale than in the recent past, and sold very decently.

Some of the more interesting results are shown below. Our CZSG Mail Sales have never had a buyers' commission and the vendor charge has been kept at 10% for many years. The total price paid by the winning bidder is given first followed, in parenthesis, by the catalog value from the 2001 Scott's Specialized.

2a, CANAL ZONE inverted, on sm. piece, VF \$420 (\$600)

4-8, all F-VF on F-VF local cover 12/10/04 \$340 (\$n/a)

8, OG, NH, VF+ \$160 (\$150)

12 var., PANAAAM at right, used, F \$725 (\$900)

13 var., left PANAMA touches bar, OG, H, VG \$210 (\$175)

20 var., CANAL antique, sl. dist. OG, H, F+ to VF in bl. of 4 w/ 3 normals \$210 (\$335)

23h, double overprint, one is diagonal ZONE CANAL, OG, H, a nip off 1 corner & few ragged perfs, o / w VF \$2050 (\$4000)

31 var. bl. 4 w/ vertical perfs nearly through center of stamps, CZSG 31.1, TG, H, VF \$250 (\$n/a)

32a, vertical pair, imperf. horiz., OG/ TG F+ \$850 (\$1000)

39 var., SPECIMEN overprint, CANAL of CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, NH, VF in pair w/ normal. Unique. \$2700 (\$n/a)

39c, booklet pane of 6, OG, NH, XF \$370 (\$500)

47, OG, LH, barely F \$850 (\$3000)

54, OG, H, VF \$160 (\$200)

55a, overprint reading down, OG, NH, VF \$150 (\$250)

56a, double overprint, OG, HR, VF \$400 (\$600)

60b, booklet pane of 6, sl. dist. OG, NH, VF+ \$1050 (\$900)

67, OG, H, VF for this \$375 (\$500)

69 var., Unissued Arms SPECIMEN set of 7, OG, F+ to VF \$775 (\$n/a)

69 var., 12c Unissued Arms, CZSG 69.C, OG, H, F \$250 (\$350)

71d, ZONE CANAL, OG/TG, H, VF \$325 (\$450)

84b, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, F-VF \$260 (\$375)

86, pl. bl. of 6 #16366-B., OG, H, F-VF \$160 (\$165)

95, OG, H, F+ \$75 (\$125)

107, precancel Type I, also w/ SRC MAR 39, used, VF \$100 (\$n/a)

C2, OG, NH, VF- \$70 (\$85)

C20, pl. bl. of 6, #14099-B., OG usual sl. cracks, NH, almost VF \$400 (\$525)

CO9, OG, NH, CTO, F \$260 (\$275)

CO10, OG, HR, CTO, VF \$160 (\$175)

J4, J7 (w/ UR margins & F-4484 work order marking), 38, all F-VF on cover Balboa 4/13/16 to Crist., VF \$1300 (\$n/a)

J17b, E of POSTAGE omitted, TG, H, VG in pair w/ normal \$300 (\$500)

J21 var., pair, POSTAGE DUE at bottom w/ numerals "1" split, CZSG

J21.1, OG, NH, F-VF \$165 (\$n/a)

J29 var., pl. bl. of 6, "15" devoid of color on most, CZSG J29.1, OG, H, F-VF \$125 (\$n/a)

O1 var., L over A, CZSG O1.4, \$22 (\$n/a)

O8, OG, H, CTO, VF+ \$525 (\$625)

O8, OG, H, CTO, F \$260 (\$625)

U2c, frame only, mint entire, XF \$1100 (\$1000)

U5 (UPSS 5), mint entire, F-VF \$145 (\$200)

U12 (UPSS 31), mint entire, VF \$150 (\$225)

UX1d (UPSS S2), used, s.o.n. Corozal 4/21/08, VF \$150 (\$200)

UX4 (UPSS S11) w/ semi-official XMAS greeting rev., mint entire, VF \$360 (\$n/a)

UC2 (UPSS A4), mint entire, VF \$210 (\$325)

UF1a (UPSS R4), mint entire, VF \$1200 (\$1250)

UX13 var., (UPSS 22a), surcharge inverted at LL, mint entire, \$280 (\$n/a)

CZ2, failed flight to Jamaica of 10/6/20, unaddressed (first such reported), on VF U2 \$160 (\$n/a)

___Fairchild inspection flight cover of 3/9/28 and ret., AAMS Hist. #581 w/ US 2c red. F-VF \$200 (\$n/a)

___Managua emergency flight due to earthquake, Crist. 4/2/31, F-VF \$280 (\$n/a)

Corrections:

Fake OP on CZ Stamps

Overprinted U.S. Issues

The table in CZP 141, pg. 42 article on overprinted U.S. issues had information missing in the two right hand cells of the top row. Please make the following corrections:

Rotary Press	Rotary Press
Sharp A	Sharp A
Perf. 10	Perf. 11x 10-1/2

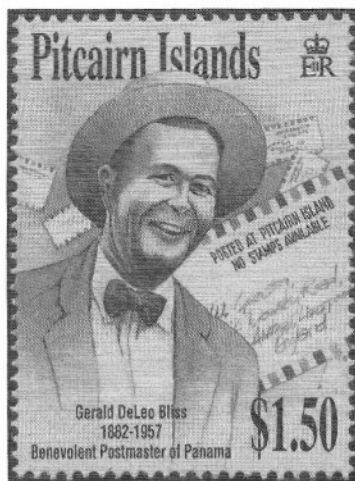
Also, in the "Did You Know" note: The first flight of powered aircraft in the CZ was made by de Giers on April 21, 1912... and the *USS Constitution* made it's first journey through the Panama Canal on Dec. 27, 1932.

Gerald D. Bliss Pitcairn Islands Stamp

On April 5, 2002 Pitcairn Islands issued a stamp to honor the contributions of Gerald Bliss, and his wife Marbelle Anna, to the Pitcairn Islands Postal Service and history. The 40x30mm multicolor (vertical) stamp, is one in a set of five called "Notable Figures of Pitcairn". The illustrated stamp has a value of \$1.50 (NZ), was designed by Dave Gunson, Auckland, NZ, printed by BDT Security Printing, Dublin Ireland by Offset Lithography and is perforated 13.

The story behind the Bliss's involvement and contributions to Pitcairn Islands is as follows:

On a day in 1920, Gerald DeLeo Bliss, postmaster at Cristobal, Canal Zone, was enjoying a meal with a ship's captain in the Strangers' Club. In his pocket, Bliss had a letter from England addressed to Pitcairn Island. Learning that the captain's upcoming Pacific voyage would take him



close to the island, Bliss asked if he would deliver the letter. The Captain's willingness to assist caused Bliss to send word to postmasters world wide advising that mail bound for Pitcairn would be given the quickest service if sent through him. Previously mail could take six months or longer to reach the island. Through Bliss, the time was reduced to less

than two weeks. As a consequence, captains agreed to take on mail from Pitcairn, knowing that Bliss would receive and sent it on from the Canal Zone. Bliss sent hand-stamp informational markings for use on Pitcairn, which read Posted at Pitcairn Island/ No Stamps Available. Not only did Bliss revolutionize Pitcairn's mail service, together with his wife Marbelle Anna, he served as the island's purchasing agent for more than a decade. Mrs. Bliss became an indefatigable bargain hunter for the always-cash-short islanders purchasing, among other large items, Pitcairn's first wood-fired domestic stove.

When he retired in 1934, Gerald D. Bliss could look back on a distinguished postal career. The last 14 years of which included providing a valuable service to Pitcairn, which not only sped the delivery of mail but enabled increased opportunities for Pitcairners to sell their crafts and obtain all manner of supplies.

CZSG Officers Election Report

A report has been submitted through Secretary John C. Smith regarding the complete ballot results for CZSG Officers and Directors elections.

The successful candidates will serve for the period Jan. 1, 2002 through Dec. 31, 2003.

Results are as follows:

President

James W. Crumpacker .. 435 votes

Vice President

Richard H. Salz 435 votes

Secretary

John C. Smith 435 votes

Treasurer

Richard F. Larkin 435 votes

Directors

Richard D. Bates, Jr. 435 votes

Gary B. Weiss 435 votes

Alan P. Bentz 435 votes

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Crumpacker, President

Book Review by David Farnsworth

Prize Possession: *The United States and the Panama Canal 1903-1979* by John Major (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1933) (ISBN 0-521-43306-1), 432 pages, hardbound, \$57.95.

The main foci of this book are the governance of the Zone, non-canal commerce in the Zone and its effect on the Panamanian economy, U.S. involvement in Panamanian governance, and defense and military use of the Zone. The backdrop is U.S.-Panama relations including the negotiations that lead to the treaties of 1977.

The author is a senior lecturer in History at the University of Hull in Québec Province. The historical method is used throughout. Original United States documentation is the basis of the book. There is complete and extensive footnoting.

This book does not have the dash of books by journalists, so it may not be a good first-book to read about this subject. However, it is authoritative

and gives a fuller picture than many comparable books. Many books about U.S.-Panama relations that have been reviewed here are one-dimensional, somewhat self-serving, or obviously from one-sided or partisan viewpoints. This book has none of those weaknesses except that only U.S. sources were available to the author, which he discusses. Also, it is written in a very fluid and easy-to-read style in plain English that is free of academic lingo.

Because this is not a trade book, the price is steep. However, this book seems to be easy to find in public and university libraries.

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